

# This Old House

AFTER

BEFORE

## 19 Before & Afters

*Idea-packed remodels  
for every room!*

P. 68

**bold colors  
for small spaces**

**COCOA MINT**  
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NOVEMBER 2008  
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## features

### 68 Before and After

How one couple transformed a gloomy 1963 Cape Cod into their dream house—and saved big doing it.

### 74 One-Room Redos

So small spaces introduce their yellowed great results.

### 78 Three Small Spaces, Nine Bold Color Ideas

High-impact paint-color combos make even the tightest rooms swoon-worthy.

### 82 Old House, Smart House

Comp before the buzz about big bang green. House was doing what it's doing: conserving energy.

### 86 Hey, Dad... Are You Busy Next Weekend?

A youth phenom takes on the huge restoration of a Second Empire house with little help from her pop.



68



86



Make a big design statement in small spaces with the right paint color combinations.



ON THE COVER

22, 66, 34, 66

Before and after

28 Bold colors for small spaces

Cover photography

Michael Leary

Design: Fabrice Dupuy







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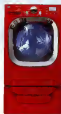
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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

## Prozac in a Paint Can

"NO MAN SHALL BE PERMITTED to pick a paint color without a signed permission slip from his wife."

Those words are posted near the buckets and brushes and rollers at a hardware store I know. And as a guy who's almost been divorced twice over what to paint the dining room, I appreciate the proprietor's concern for his customers—not that my paint abominations are about making crazy color choices. See, if asked to pick my favorites, I'd have to say Designer White followed by Dove White and Navajo White, then, perhaps, Avocado. Whelp and, finally, maybe, Love White. Trouble is, I married a woman whose tastes in color are less than mine, you know, for-seen's Playhouse.

I should have known the two of us would have a little compatibility issue when we started dating. I was shocked when I first saw her apartment. She had painted it: kitchen avocado orange, the living room candy-apple red, the hall steel violet. To me it was as if a blind man had taped together a broken rainbow. To her it was a masterpiece for happiness—color on the walls just made her smile.

Fortunately, shortly after our marriage and before any divorce lawyers could mean phone calls, we embarked on our remodel, and the chaos of construction delayed my decisions about color. In the nearly two-year since, the only space untouched by hammer and saw was her little home office. Early on she had painted it a soft sage, and, as the stress of the remodel built, she spent more and more time in that warm room. For her it became a reminder of the day we'd finally got out of the last workman, brush the plaster dust off the windows, and let the sun shine into our remodel home. I relived all this not long ago when meeting a handful of This Old House readers. When I asked those who made the decision about what you do around the house, a couple of guys in the group unthinkingly answered "A happy wife is a happy life!"

Which is why you see me here with a handful of the 43 poster boards we printed with sample colors, including Fancy Fancy (officially) and Gold Abundance (I would). A few eventually made it onto our walls. I'll take some pictures, show you sometime. Meanwhile, check out the definitely not-per-white paint choices on "Three Small Spaces, Nine Bold Color Ideas" on page 75. Share it with your significant other. You'll both be happy.

Sam Oellermann

EDITOR EMERITUS



The editor with some of the 43 paint poster boards he and his wife find it wise to burn into out of the old walls with red.

## Three useful things I learned from this month's TOH

How to save \$136,300 on a remodel (could have used that one two years ago) P 68

How coffee filters can clean your shoes and save your houseplants P 20

Why old houses don't need translation to be energy efficient P 82





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## Spirit of DIY

I've really enjoyed TDM over the years. Many times I will have just completed a project and then I'll see it covered in your magazine—or one of your projects gives me an idea how to handle another problem. I've tiled, painted, wallpapered, installed ceiling fans, put heating under a tiled floor, redone bathrooms, and removed a popcorn ceiling. My feeling is that, while I could pay someone else to do the work, I prefer to do it myself, simply because I can learn those valuable how-to skills by doing.

FRANKIE BYE MAIL

### Classic Cinema

As a husband and wife DIY team, we recently finished a home theater in the basement of our 1980 home. We did our best to restore our house's old-time look and feel, shore up the structure properly, and expose the beauty of the stone walls. Time and time again we have been inspired when reading *Home* TDM about other people's remodels, and how I truly have



made their old homes into wonderful spaces. Let editors who've visited our home know that it's possible to add modern amenities like theater without sacrificing any of the charm of their schemes.

DEBBIE AND GARY LAYNE, MISSISSAUGA, ONT.

### Contractor Responsibility

In "The \$500 Delivery Charge" (September), several of your "lessons learned" left me wondering: Is there anything a contractor is truly responsible for? If a contractor goes on measurements and you or your children change the contractor should cut the charge for his or her mistake. If a contractor brings in a subcontractor who does substandard work, he or she should be held responsible for the work done by the sub if a reasonable recommendation at that point (if the design would be in order

Number 9)—Never assume your project will be done right. I'm perfectly illustrating my frustration. What am I hiring a contractor for if it's not knowledge, expertise, and responsibility?

We have the pros for the expertise that we don't have. I can't imagine taking my car to a repair and needing to visit the shop a machine and the parts supplier, only to be told the wrong parts were special ordered and that I have to foot the bill. Rather than accepting this as a "broken learned" going to your state contractor board or to small claims court would we're there appreciate.

MICHAEL EDELL, SANTA ANA, CALIF.

The editors reply: We're not suggesting that a contractor who clearly performs substandard work or makes costly errors is off the hook. We are recommending that homeowners be vigilant about who they hire and what goes on at their home. After all, your houses (probably) your best life savings investment. We think of having a contract as more akin to buying a medical procedure than a machine. Yes, you choose a caregiver for his or her expertise, but don't you also ask everyone you know for recommendations, make sure to carefully read those documents in the writing room, and ask lots of questions before agreeing to any procedure?

### Foot Traffic

We "On the Couch With 'This Old House'" (June). A guest expert suggested that homeowners pay attention to whether contractors are "footloose enough to ask to take off their boots or shoes" when entering a house. Considering the extra time it would take for busy handiwork carpenters to remove their footwear and put

it back on—and the related cost to homeowners—I think the more appropriate thing to do would be to offer boot covers or leg vinyls/boots. Think about how long it would take to untie and release one's boots several times over the course of a day.

NAN SHUTTLESS, LAKELAND, FLA.

### Decade-Long Remodel

My husband and I have been renovating our 150-year-old house for the past 10 years with



the guidance of your wonderful magazine. We can say we are officially done with our project. We did most of the job ourselves, and friends invested all our money in this house, had tons of fun being physically exhausted and enjoyed lots of laughs. It was lots of hard work but highly rewarding. A decade later! With one thing, apart from make has been incredible: into the beautiful 5,000-square-foot home you see in the attached photo.

CHRISTINE JOHNSON, BRIDGEWATER, N.J.

### corrections

The September cover photograph credit should have gone to Mark Johnson. We regret the error.

On p. 46 of the September issue, we identified the David product as a wood putty. It is actually a paint over

primer. July/August issue, p. 33, we gave the wrong Web address for Camille. It is [camilleusa.com](http://camilleusa.com).



### How to reach us

SEND ADDRESS: This magazine is published by the Home Depot Foundation, 2000 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309. For more information, please visit our website at [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com). Please include a return address and please send no more than one letter per month.

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# around the HOUSE

EDITED BY BERENAH ENDOWMAN

## All Fired Up

These tools will spruce up any hearth

They're the only tools you have on display in the living room, so why settle for the cheap ones you see in every home store? A well-crafted set of fireplace tools is an investment that lasts a lifetime. This Old House hunted for selections that feature comfortable handles and sturdy bases, as well as a variety of finishes and styles to suit any taste. Plus, a set that fits neatly with your hearth and fits good in your grip—you'll keep reaching for these season after season.

### PRO ADVICE



"If you use your fireplace frequently, look for a shovel with a large scoop versus a flat shape for easier cleaning."

—BENNETT B. BENTLEY, A SPECIALIST  
THE WOODEN SHED, CHERRY VA.





## HOW TO

# Blending Old Paints

HOW TO GET THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCKET

Who says you should get rid of that quart of sky blue that's no longer in the bathroom with? Or the full gallon of lime green that you found in the hardware store but hated in the hallway? Mixing old paints to get a new color is an inexact science, but with a little trial and error you can achieve what you like and save a few bucks in the process. Dean Draven, co-owner and vice president of Canada-based paint-recycler Galbraith Environmental LTD, gave us five tips for blending paint at home.

**KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BLENDING** Never mix alkyds with latex or stains with paints. "You'll get something that looks like cottage cheese," it warns. Though not impossible, oil-based paints can also be tricky to blend. Paid time, however, to throw together latex-based interiors with exterior and glosses with flats.



**BOAT OUT THE BAD CAME** If the paint is lumpy and doesn't improve in texture after a minute or so of stirring, it's no good. Also steer clear of paint showing signs of bacterial growth, indicated by brown or white spots on the surface.

**USE A FILTER** When you're ready to mix, strain the paint through cheesecloth or a stainless-steel mesh filter into a clean can. "This gets rid of clumps and any chunk," says Draven.

**EXPERIMENT FIRST** In general, randomly mixing leftover paint will result in a grayish, brownish, or other neutral color, particularly if you are mixing darks with darks or lights with lights. Instead, mix spoonsful of paint in equal parts first to see what color you get, then test different proportions until you like the result.

**PLAN AHEAD** Mix enough paint for your project before you start applying it—applying the color will be tough. If you have any left over, ask a splashy artist to let you know what color it makes, then send the mix and can for touch-ups.

**STAY FLEXIBLE** If the color you get isn't exactly what you had in mind, you can use it as a primer instead and buy a new can for the top coat. And if the mixed paint appears to your thrifty side, buy extra cans from a local paint-recycling center—that's a fraction of the cost of the new stuff.

—MATT K. GOODMAN



you have color mixing old paint colors that work together at [RealHouse.com/Tools](http://RealHouse.com/Tools)

## Cheat Sheet: Mixing Colors

As you're experimenting, keep these basic guidelines in mind. For color color-matching, check out the digital color wheel at the Paint Quality Systems website at [paintquality.com](http://paintquality.com).

### Mixing Primaries



### Make a Color Lighter



### Time Down a Bright Blue



## Still Not Getting the Right Color?

Buy bleached, recycled colors from one of these sources (like extra: They stock mostly by website.)

- **Amaco Environmental Inc.** Riverside, CA; \$40 per 5-gallon can, [amaco.com](http://amaco.com)
- **Galbraith Environmental Corp.** Canada; \$30 to \$60 per 5-gallon can, [galbraithenvironmental.com](http://galbraithenvironmental.com)
- **Charmeuse Solid Waste Services**, Williams, VT; \$30 to \$40 per 5-gallon can, [solidwaste.com](http://solidwaste.com)



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## 10 USES Coffee Filters

They're a must-have item in the kitchen, of course. But lint-free, tear-resistant coffee filters are mighty handy in the workshop—and pretty much everywhere else. —JENNIFER KILGUS

### 1 Prevent rust

Place a coffee filter inside a vent fan, which is useful to absorb excess moisture when it's not in use.

### 2 Keep hardware organized

Put nails, screws and fasteners into paper coffee filters while you're working. To keep them from falling off the table.

### 3 Make an air freshener

Place a tablespoon of essential oil in a coffee filter and let it sit in a closed jar with water. Stick the jar in the fridge to absorb odors.



### 4 Keep windows clear

Spray panes with glass cleaner, then wipe away with a doubled-up coffee filter. No lint, no streaks.

### 5 Fix a wobbly leg

Place coffee filter several times, cut to size if needed, and tuck it into the space between a loose table leg and the tabletop.

### 6 Strain solvents

Get paint thinner with residue floating in it? Strain it through a coffee filter into a clean container. Then safely dispose of the filter and residue after they've dried out.

### 7 Make houseplants less messy

Line flower pots and planters with coffee filters to stop soil from falling through the drainage hole.

### 8 Absorb spills on upholstery

Use coffee filters to blot liquids off sofas or fabric car seats. (They won't leave lint behind the paper towels do.)

### 9 Prep a stain

To clean a stain, pour the run over for one week. Then use the stain through a paper filter to remove surface dust before applying it.

### 10 Shine shoes

Use a coffee filter to buff your favorite pair of leather shoes. (For brown shoes, a used filter will work best on a dry day.)



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## around the HOUSE



1. **Delonghi** oil-filled radiator, \$150, [delonghi.com](http://delonghi.com)



2. **Rowenell** Dual Touch Energy Saver Fan, forced air, \$40, [rowenell.com](http://rowenell.com)



3. **Black+Decker** oscillating heater, \$110, [blackanddecker.com](http://blackanddecker.com)



4. **DeLonghi** ceramic heater, \$70, [delonghi.com](http://delonghi.com)

5. **Lenox** Leno/Petite heater, \$40 to \$120, [lenoxproducts.com](http://lenoxproducts.com)



### SHOPPING GUIDE

## The Best Space Heaters

When used safely (plugged into an outlet—not an extension cord—and kept at least 3 feet away from drapes, bedding, wall furniture), a space heater lets you keep a small room toasty without having to make the rest of the house feel like a sauna. Use our shopping guide to find out which type is right for your chillest room. —NATHALIE KORNBLUTH

TYPE	HOW IT HEATS	HEAT TO BUY	HEAT FOR
>1 <b>RADIANT</b>	Disperses the heat in oil-filled and other heaters, and fills with oil, allowing it to radiate.	Oil heaters heat well, so the electric pump is worth something, a fan heater after that's been tested.	Living rooms and bedrooms.
>2 <b>FAN-POWERED</b>	A built-in or motor-driven fan or two blows hot air out.	The air you need can be delivered to you on only part of a room—the where you sit.	Workshops and offices.
>3 <b>QUARTZ CATALYTIC</b>	Also called "catalytic" and "radiant," these heaters use a catalytic converter to heat the air, allowing it to radiate.	These heaters use catalytic converters to heat the air, allowing it to radiate.	Workshops and garages.
>4 <b>CERAMIC</b>	Electricity heats up metal or ceramic, which then radiates the heat out into the room.	These heaters use ceramic converters to heat the air, allowing it to radiate.	Small offices and bedrooms.
>5 <b>FACEBOARD</b>	An electric heating system built into the wall, usually with a thermostat, that warms the room.	These heaters use a faceboard to heat the room, usually with a thermostat.	Bedrooms and living rooms.



### READER TIP

## Making Use of Candle Wax

"Instead of throwing away burned-down candle stubs, I rub them against the threads of long screws. The lubrication makes driving the screws a lot easier!"

—ED LEE, FOXE  
MCKINLEY LANE, N.J.

## Send Us Your Tips

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vented the last is the oil pan for replacement.

#### 6 REPLACE FUEL FILTERS

The fuel filter filters out dirt and debris from the fuel before it enters the engine. Replace yours by cutting it off each side with a pair of side cutters. Then pull it out. The filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles.

#### PRO ADVICE



"Don't leave cans of gasoline sitting around, because the fuel will absorb water, which makes motors run rough. Funnel whatever's left into your car's tank, then buy fresh gas come springtime."

—CHAD MARTIN, OWNER, LINGO POWER EQUIPMENT, MARIETTA, GA



#### 7 CHANGE AIR FILTERS

Dry or dirty clogged filters, making them harder to breathe and harder to start. Your filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles. They cost \$5 to \$20, depending on the filter. To change the filter, turn the filter by removing the top of the engine compartment. The filter is located on the side of the engine. The filter is located on the side of the engine. The filter is located on the side of the engine.

#### 8 GET THE CRANK OIL

Check the oil level. The oil level should be checked every 30,000 miles. The oil level should be checked every 30,000 miles. The oil level should be checked every 30,000 miles. The oil level should be checked every 30,000 miles. The oil level should be checked every 30,000 miles.



#### 9 LUBRICATE

Apply a light coat of oil to the moving parts of the engine. The oil should be applied every 30,000 miles. The oil should be applied every 30,000 miles. The oil should be applied every 30,000 miles. The oil should be applied every 30,000 miles. The oil should be applied every 30,000 miles.

#### NEED TO KNOW

### WINTERIZING YARD TOOLS

As autumn gives way to the fall, it's time to winterize your yard tools. The best way to do this is to clean them, oil them, and store them in a dry place. The best way to do this is to clean them, oil them, and store them in a dry place. The best way to do this is to clean them, oil them, and store them in a dry place.



#### 10 OIL THE OIL

When a tool is used, the oil gets dirty. The oil should be changed every 30,000 miles. The oil should be changed every 30,000 miles. The oil should be changed every 30,000 miles. The oil should be changed every 30,000 miles. The oil should be changed every 30,000 miles.

#### 11 REPLACE HOSE PARTS

Check the hoses for wear and tear. The hoses should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The hoses should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The hoses should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The hoses should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The hoses should be replaced every 30,000 miles.

#### 12 CLEAN THE PISTONS

Check the pistons for wear and tear. The pistons should be cleaned every 30,000 miles. The pistons should be cleaned every 30,000 miles. The pistons should be cleaned every 30,000 miles. The pistons should be cleaned every 30,000 miles. The pistons should be cleaned every 30,000 miles.

#### 13 PRELUDE THE BAR

Check the bar for wear and tear. The bar should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The bar should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The bar should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The bar should be replaced every 30,000 miles. The bar should be replaced every 30,000 miles.



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## KITCHEN DESIGN

# Rules Are for Breaking

» A design pro updated her  
galley kitchen by annexing space,  
widening entries, and making  
creative use of open shelves



IF YOU have a lot of old bones, well, so is the way. That was recently the case for Susan Sauer and Art Weiserman, who two years ago acquired a 1901 Shingle-style house in Montclair, New Jersey. The house, which was a jumble of rooms after a 1920s renovation split it into two apartments, was due for a gut renovation, starting with its cramped galley kitchen. But the obvious solution—knock down the wall it shared with the living room—would mean sacrificing a treasured fireplace. So Susan crisscrossed her rights on two walls with less weight, annexing sections of bedrooms to gain space at one end and removing two doors of wall at the other. “Then I took creative liberties to make the room feel more open,” she says.

As a veteran kitchen designer, Susan was able to break a few of the usual rules. She practiced Rule No. 1—when you need extra storage, add more bones—by adding upper cabinets in favor of open shelves. As for Rule No. 2—just don’t add another window for the dishwasher’s sake—she figured to not look up while loading the machine, so why not give the view and a little natural light to the family’s largest gathering place? Art’s mother, Julia, To make the look her own, Susan opted for an unusual mix of styles and materials. Traditional painted base cabinets and a solid surface farmhouse sink keep the kitchen grounded in its past, while a sleek island topped with slate, along with stainless steel appliances and countertops, help give the working kitchen a loftlike look. “Not everyone has the right setup for a great entry kitchen,” Susan says, “but you can always make the most of the space you’ve got.”

BY KELLEY SEASHAN  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL LUPPING



Annexing over the courtyard and over the range provides natural light and makes a workstation with a view.

↑ Perimeter cabinets, a divisible alternative to classic, rely more to what America's midcentury modern.

ADDS: Open shelves and sleek surfaces replace a 1920s galley kitchen (RIGHT) with open shelving, laminate counters, and tile floor.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL LUPPING

Side-by-side pantries flank the bridge, keeping glassware and stacks like flour and sugar out of sight but easily reached on short-outreaches.



## The Plan

» Enlarge the galley kitchen by creating space at both ends, and open it up to the living room while preserving a key wall.

### What They Did

- 1 TOOK OVER A BATHROOM** to add 55-square feet, allowing the homeowners to extend and -shaped island cabinets, move the range to a better spot, and drop an island and two stools in the center of the room.
- 2 KNOCKED OUT TWO BLINDERS OF WALL** and removed a narrow doorway leading to the former dining room. This surgery, coupled with the addition of a second passageway below on the kitchen and living room, eased traffic flow and created a more spacious feel.
- 3 RELOCATED A DOORWAY** between the kitchen and the back porch, eliminating the door swing—and an adjacent radiator—opened up space for a 7-foot-tall pantry and a shelf flanking the bridge.
- 4 BEAILED UP ONE WINDOW** to gain wall space over the sink for open shelves. The redesign, meanwhile, positioned a third prep area under the former bathroom window, which they replaced with one nearly 32 inches wider. "It made more sense to have a window over a counter," says design homeowner Susan Sener. "Today, with dishwashers, you don't need the window for drying dishes in the sink. It's better to have one where you spend time chopping onions and drying crops."



**BEFORE:** The 12-by-12-foot kitchen was beset by a bath, the dining room, and a living room and **AFTER:** The owners enlarged the kitchen to 12 by 34 feet by -moving the bath. Eliminating a doorway makes the new breakfast room feel like an extension of the kitchen, adding a second area into the living room opens up the owners' view here.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BED BATH & BEYOND

Source: bed bath & beyond Inc. and its subsidiaries

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Amusing pot rack mounted to the wall hangs stainless steel pots overhead as well as below door frame.



PRO ADVICE

"Deep drawers wider than your biggest roasting pan—36 inches—can hold pots and plates and help reduce the number of wall cabinets in a small kitchen."

—SUSAN SMART, KITCHEN DESIGNER AND HOMEOWNER

## The Details

>> An island topped with pebbly slate provides a contrast to the cool stainless steel of the countertops and pre-appliances.

1 | **OPEN SHELVES** display memorabilia—and no need to open and close doors in search of a coffee pot. Faucet: Danabrook; Cabinet sink: K&E Pot Solutions; Pot: Mistad Green; Beverage dispenser: 2 |

3 | **SLATE AND STAINLESS STEEL**, which are traditional add functionality. Hygienic stainless steel is best for homeowners who appreciate work surfaces that get rid of scratches and dents like you see in restaurant kitchens. Slat design from owner Susan Smart. Slate, which in this case was factory sealed to resist stains, adds a note of luxury. "It's like I got a piece of Asian furniture down in the middle of the room," she says. Countertops: Sealmatic.

4 | **A CUSTOM WALL-MOUNTED POT RACK**, designed by Susan, keeps pots near the cooktop. The pine frame is stained to match the island's pine base and tubular bracing the area wrap looking and easy to clean. Tile: Workworks.

5 | **DEEP-UP STORAGE** on the side adds to the island's utility. 36-inch wide drawers that are 5 1/4 inches deep for plates and stock pots. They also have knife block inserts slide slots for spices and recycling and garbage bins. As built in [www.convection.com](http://www.convection.com) helps keep counters uncluttered. Cabinet and pulls: Sealmatic.

online  
ideas

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In addition, be sure to have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

For help choosing the right fire extinguisher for your home, and for more fire safety tips, visit [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com).



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Author	Year	Sample Size	Effect Size
...	...	...	...

**FOR**  
Recharging  
gadgets and  
clearing away  
the fog

**KEY FEATURE:** A two-outlet power strip for two Century Bathworks electric toothbrushes or razor.

**EXTRAS:** Hard-wiring also works. The mirrored door is clear condensation 30 inches tall by 28 inches wide by 3 inches deep.

**COST:** \$140.  
Home Depot.com

**PRICE TO VALUE:** A safe investment if you want to keep what's dry from the sink and behind closed doors.



**FOR** Storage-starved  
powder rooms

**KEY FEATURE:** A deep recessed cabinet holds two tiers made of beveled glass.

**EXTRAS:** The glass shelves in this Kallista model adjust to accommodate bottles of hand soap and towel bars.

**COST:** \$344.  
Kallista.com

**PRICE TO VALUE:** At this price, it's hard to go wrong.

**FOR** Side-by-side  
storage

**KEY FEATURE:** Flip-out fern side shelves create a side-shelf storage system by Decora.

**EXTRAS:** A window unit has shelves with flip-down doors for storage. It's 28 inches tall by 60 inches wide by 4 1/2 inches deep.

**COST:** \$530.  
The Home Depot.com

**PRICE TO VALUE:** A sensible choice for avoiding toothpaste clutter.



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**FOR Prescriptions and pricey skin care**

**KEY FEATURE:** A discreet lock on the side of this brown (gold framed) cabinet from Marjan comes with two keys.

**EXTRAS:** The white-painted interior is lock-resistant, and the three glass shelves are adjustable. 28 1/2 inches tall by 12 7/8 inches wide by 5 7/8 inches deep.

**COST:** \$134

**WHERE TO BUY:**

**PRICE TO VALUE:** When both are around \$1 provides peace of mind.

**FOR Good grooming**

**KEY FEATURE:** A 5 1/2-inch magnifying mirror is mounted on the Whitecap Collection cabinet's side panel and can be folded inward.

**EXTRAS:** The cabinet is mirrored too. 22 1/2 inches tall by 10 1/2 inches wide by 4 inches deep.

**COST:** \$490

**WHERE TO BUY:**

**PRICE TO VALUE:** It's a smart upgrade if it saves space in your dressing nook.

**FOR Bathrooms short on light and wall space**

**KEY FEATURE:** Two lights come built into this space-saving mirror. Dimensions excluded.

**EXTRAS:** The cherry-stained wood and silver nickel hardware with frosted glass shelves make a great addition to the bathroom.

**COST:** \$190

**WHERE TO BUY:**

**PRICE TO VALUE:** Think of it as the most where to put a component would be a light fixture.

**FOR Value-size purchases**

**KEY FEATURE:** 6-inch door glass shelves can handle bulky bottles and containers.

**EXTRAS:** Swivel mirror side clips give this metal frame full-size cabinet's footprint. Even when it's propped open the wall.

**COST:** \$400

**WHERE TO BUY:**

**PRICE TO VALUE:** Think of it as the money you'll save buying a new one.

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SALVAGE



## Windowed Cottage Doors

» Use one to spruce up your entry, or bring one inside to double as a pantry door or as an elegant dressing vanity when fitted with a mirror and hooks

BY KIM R. MAGNUS PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIAN WARD



THE VICTORIAN ERA COTTAGE door was the people's door. A door for the regular Joe, "the home and more of the lead." (Then last one came from the writings of the money yet influential 19th-century taxonomist A.J. Downing.) Mirrored inside, the cottage door was indeed designed for America's working class. Constructed of wood and rails, with glass in the upper portion and carved moldings and decorative appliques in the lower, it dressed up the entrance of the most modest Queen Anne, Italianate, and Shingle-style houses of the late 1800s.

Cottage doors still hang in front-entrance antiques stores, but my money's on New Orleans for having the most per square mile. That's where durable cypress doors decorate the facades of thousands of shotgun cottages. And it's where I scoured. The Bush Architectural Antiques shop for a vintage beauty of my own. Price range from about \$300 for an unadorned door that's missing its glass to \$638 for one that's intact and ready to install.

Local fire codes require that I have a steel front apartment door, so fortunately for me, my plan for the cottage door centered on improving the look of my interior entrance. Besides using one to upgrade an entry, a cottage door makes a handsome pantry or cellar door. One that's missing its glass can be built into a wall between the kitchen and dining room to serve as an elegant pass-through.

Inspired by a narrowest cut one in the hallway of the 1890s cottage house I grew up in, I transformed mine into a narrow dressing vanity with hooks for hanging clothes. Turn the page to see how to use a cottage door to make your own stylish storage unit.



That's one busy converting an old cottage door into a dressing vanity in our TDH workshop.



## Step-by-Step: Make This Dressing Vanity

Just like an old window, the glass in a vintage cottage door is typically small in scale, with a decorative stool and apron moldings at the bottom. In transforming my door into a dressing table, I widened the stool to create a sturdy shelf for holding grooming supplies and my morning cup of coffee. I then filled the empty space above the shelf with a new 3/4-in. solid (instead of replace-veneer) glass for what had long ago shattered. Because my door was untreated, I paid \$380—in savings of about \$300 over pristine models. I covered the holes where the glass had been once placed the wood with antique brasses. I got an idea at Pottery Barn for get \$5 spacers. Two more holes on the opposite side add symmetry and provide more places to hang stuff. >>

**Cost:** About \$480  
**Time:** Three  
Weeks  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
Some basic carpentry  
to make old door with  
new tools.



1

**1. REMOVE THE STOOL MOLDINGS** on the back side of the window opening using a small pry bar and get them aside. Behind the stool are grooves that used to hold the old window glass in place. This is where the new mirror will fit.

**2. FLIP THE DOOR** (up and gently pry off the stool and stool moldings. You'll use these to make the shelf.) To prevent the wood from splitting, loosen a corner, then work the pry bar down the line. Now stand the door against a wall.

### PRO ADVICE



"If you plan to use the door inside, preserve its stripped wood finish by sealing it with paste wax, such as Briwax, in a light-brown color. Just be sure to first smooth the door's surface with fine-grit sandpaper."

—KRISTINE LARSEN, THE HOME ARCHITECTURE ARTIST'S REFORMING



2

**3. TRACE THE OUTLINE** of the stool's inner edge on a board that's been cut to the same length. This is the base if you'll use for the shelf, so choose one that closely matches the stool's thickness and the wood's grain. Mine is cypress, all scavenged from another door.

**4. STEADY THE BOARD**, with its opposite unmarked edge flush against the door where the stool used to sit. Mark where to notch the corners so that the board will fit snugly in the frame.

**5. CUT ALONG THE LINES** with a jigsaw. The cut board and stool should fit together like puzzle pieces and slide easily into the door's window frame. To finish the mixed construction of the stool, plane and sand the protruding sides of the cut board.

**6. JOIN THE STOOL** and board with glue and 3-inch trim head screws driven through the front of the stool. Be sure to first predrill the holes and countersink the screws.

**7. ADHERE THE SHELF** with frame with wood glue. Then predrill holes in its center and ends. Drive in 4-inch screws, anchoring them in the wood on which the shelf sits. Replace the apron molding, securing it with finish nails.

**8. RETURN THE DOOR** to its work table back-side up. Separate silicone adhesive into the mirror grooves.

**9. EASE THE MIRROR** into the grooves, reflective side down. Glue plywood in the back of the mirror and match the stool moldings with finish nails. Add the handle and convenient grooming.



3



4



5



6



7



8



**ONLINE VIDEO**  
See step 9 in action for this project's design and construction details.



9

**TIP:** To hide January screws and screws below, use a filler made from wood glue and sawdust. Blend until the mixture is the consistency of peanut butter.



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TOH TV



## Build Your Design File

» How to find inspiration for remodeling your dream home in the everyday things around you

BY JOSH GARRICK/PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTONIO ADWILL/IDEA



**TOP:** Colors, textures, patterns, lines, and other elements all helped architect Chris Adams understand what Pete and Amy Farrow wanted for their new house. **RIGHT:** Advertising all the house.

ALL GREAT HOME PROJECTS, whether a total renovation or just a living room paint job, start with inspiration. Pete and Amy Farrow's new house, the current *This Old House* TV project, began with an "aha" moment at a random house tour lodge in Idaho: "We loved the beams, the barn look," says Pete.

"We studied and wanted our house to have the informal feel of a vacation place." But it was the details they added—called from books, magazines, historical photos, and maps of interesting buildings—that got them their distinctive design. By the time they met with Chris Adams, an architect with Bensonwood, the design-build company that is working with *TOH* to help build and remodel the Farrow's home in Wenonah, Massachusetts, it wasn't hard for Adams to understand what the couple wanted. "I had never seen anything so thorough from a client," he says.

Flowing your vision, either for your own understanding or so that you can convey it to a pro, is easy if you learn where to find ideas. Word ads are the best way to document ideas and relay your passion to someone else—in as long as you organize, edit, and present the materials so that everything stays focused and streamlined. "Our idea file kept at bay," says Pete. "It helped us say, 'Yeah, that idea is great, but it wouldn't be in a barn, so let's choose something else.'" And that kind of logic, remember what's important thinking is exactly what will help you turn dreams and inspiration into a real house.

If you're getting ready to work on your house, or just want to gather inspiration for the day you finally do, read on to learn where to look for ideas and how to translate them to you and your pro with your eye on your crystal clarity.



The Parade gives you magazines like *The Old House* and *The New House* to help you find ideas for their home.

## Magazines and Books

It seems like an obvious thing to point out, but many magazines and books are in the business of providing photos of amazing houses. All you have to do is flip through them looking for ones that appeal to you and tear them out, right?

Well, yes and no. Sure, clip the stuff showing the perfect bathroom tile or floor finish. Figure out what it is that appeals to you about it. Then note it right on the page—immediately—so you don't forget the feeling.

But just as important are images of homes with the right overall feel. "I want to know about the big picture of what you're trying to accomplish," explains Don Bennett, a design-build contractor in Crested Rock, Colorado. "Use the clipper to demonstrate the kind of home you want to create. Is it to get separate spaces for adults and teenagers? To improve your party guests, to accommodate a home office, to create a man cave?"

And it isn't just modern books or the latest magazine issues that inspire you. There are many classics out there that could have useful information. Amy and Phil looked through two older books about interior design by Fred Benson. Benson was a founder of Extension, a modern book like *A Pattern Language* can supply ideas, says Bennett. "It's filled with hundreds of pictures for wonderful details like roof overhangs, bay windows and built-ins."



Amy and Phil are quick with the camera and have one with them at all times. They've documented many of their favorite places, including a water bottle, a house in Norway and a hotel in Paris, all of which inspired their house.

and it finished

Get a new style. Complete your house. Find a new style of life. Find a new style of life. Find a new style of life.

## Interesting Spaces

You don't have to live in a house to have a picture to show an image of what inspires you. Start carrying a digital camera wherever you go, and any time something catches your eye, capture it. But don't focus just on details. "There's a lot of time to pick your camera up to show later," says Adams. Think about the big picture by looking at shape, proportion, style, and color. The Parade photo collection includes the grand old estates in a Paris hotel and the modern like owners in Western New York community center. Bars, restaurants and stores are also good places to see cutting edge design, especially light, color schemes and furniture, says Lon Scharf, an architect in Corvallis, Oregon.

And don't worry about matching, either. You photograph a specific space in your home, says Kathy Marshall, a Boston-based interior and bath designer who has worked on several TGTV projects. "I don't need to see only pictures of kitchens. It's all design, a kitchen," she says. "I've seen an interior building or a living room that you love will help me understand your aesthetic and your color preferences."

The house shapes landscapes and traditions of your own area often provide the best prototypes, especially homes similar to yours that have been successfully remodeled. "Look at the architectural style of your area, but also the environment," says Stephens. "Pay attention to local wood species, traditions collected from the site or pieces of rules on the property."



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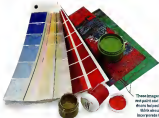
## Historical Photos

The square you sit in at the present is a great resource for ideas, but don't discount the past. The Fixates found a lot of connection with historic architectural forms, built when the firm was mostly hand-drawn. They met with the town historian, Pamela W. Fox, and borrowed images of the past century from book she wrote about Westborough South B. Gilman told them how to fixate.

Don't ignore the power of personal history as well: you might even find something inspiring in your own past. "Underneath it all, a lot of people are trying to create some wonderful respect of the house they grew up in," says Stephens. "So scour your own old photos for evidence and ask family members for their memories of the space."



"We want our design to pay respect to the architecture of Westborough," says the couple about images they borrowed from a local history book. The Charles Beers Farm built in 1905. [www.gutenberg.org/files/10000/10000-h/10000-h.htm](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10000/10000-h/10000-h.htm)



These images of peeling red paint and green barn doors helped the Fixates think about how to incorporate traditional farm-building colors into their barnhouse house.

## Colors and Textures

Real spaces aren't the only three that can guide you. Sometimes the best inspiration comes from a feeling that you get from the times things. Piles and Amy's kids included photos they took of bright red peeling paint and broken down farm equipment. They grabbed fabrics and textures they thought fit their design. Assembled together, these colors and textures give Adams an excellent sense of the old-timey barn feel that the Fixates wanted.

Color is especially influential. "Paint color can inspire architectural style," says Bennett. "If your house is a generic building, but you've painted it in Craftsman colors, Colonial colors, or trendy contemporary ones, that might be an as low as the direction to take the architecture during a remodel."

Once you have the parts of your idea file together, take the time to sit down and discuss what's there with your partner first, then with your pro. If you have one. You'll be happy you had both conversations, because you'll find misunderstandings later. And if you're open, you may get back some suggestions that you never would have thought about on your own. ■

## The Digital Idea File

An old-fashioned scrapbook is a great way to keep your inspirations in one place and organize them for handy reference. But these days you can go back with your book by using your computer to turn tactile materials into a multi-ready file. Here are a few ways to assemble and present your goods in the electronic age.

### PDF

Save your materials and create a PDF file using Adobe Acrobat that you can email to the pros for paperless correspondence.

### WEBSITE OR DVD

Use scrapbooking software, such as Polaroid My Memories Studio (300) or LarkPhotoStation (300) to place together scanned and photographed materials into a PDF website or add them to presentation with words and ending images.

### BOUND BOOK

Assemble and design and find the materials showing ideas like SketchUp or PhotoUp (Photo for Mac only). Then order a custom-bound book through the site. Starts at around \$100.

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## Queen Anne, on a Budget

» The Victorian style got its name from England, but Yankees made it affordable

BY KELLY BEAMON

MOST PEOPLE WOULD CALL a house with gingerbread trim and wicker painting a Victorian. But that's a little bit like calling a Rolls-Royce a car. Accurate, sure, but not really specific. Or in all details. And that's what this gem of a species of Victorian-era house—more properly called a Queen Anne—is all about. It began at the second story of shingles atop a first of brick, both strong with a garland of fancy ironwork. Moorish arches supported by Greek columns flanked by Arts-and-Crafts carving, all of it accented with stained-glass windows and furniture with fancy carved lines. For something current, after a fresh renovation, it's pure Arts-and-Crafts meeting past.

When this architectural style originated, from 1880 to 1910, Queen Anne herself was long dead. But her influence was real. It had lived in its enormous, ornate English manor houses for nearly 200 years. The newly emerging American middle class aspired to such grandeur. And at the end of the 19th century, mass production allowed them a small piece of it. Suddenly, new homeowners had cheap and easy access to formerly handmade products once available only to the wealthy. Architects and artisans could be had to order from pattern books. Furniture with beaded fabric and carving, ornate legs could be picked out of a catalog. And, like kids in a penny candy store, the house-owning crowd indulged.

This unique—and uniquely American—look still evokes the Queen Anne style one of the most desired today. "We can't all be so lucky as to live in one, but fortunately that doesn't mean you're not to design in delightful extravagant shadings. The important part of quality goods at a smart price lives on today in the pages that follow, as does the best ones for your home."

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STYLING: JESSICA BROWN

ITTY BITT FOR A QUEEN  
The handsome Inverly, S-shaped table leg and dovetail joints in this house in Salem, Maine, are typical of an authentic Queen Anne interior. The reproduction dining chair, with the carved, S-shaped back, is available in a variety of finishes. For more information, visit [www.harveyind.com](http://www.harveyind.com).

# Queen Anne: Hallmarks of a Style

Get the look with eight easy pieces



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Inlaid rock-thru pulls add period charm to any chest or desk. The carving shows a delicate, horn-shaped flower called English-rose furthers. \$8 each; [petermohr.com](http://petermohr.com)

**BURR CHEST**  
The highly elegant and popular of the English-burly chest is the finest piece of Queen Anne furniture. Inlaid, 55 by 42 inches. \$2,450; [dutchcrafters.com](http://dutchcrafters.com)



**PATTERNED TEXTILES**  
Colorful cottons and silks are popular in the English country houses that inspired the Queen Anne style. Stripes and more subtle colors are perfect for modern-day living room seating. \$60 a yard; [dutchcrafters.com](http://dutchcrafters.com)

**DETAILS, DETAILS**  
In the 1680s, homeowners were proud that their new, heavily carved wooden furniture could now be made cheaply by machine. Grained wall endpapers, electric wall



PHOTO: OTTAVIO BIANCHI; DESIGN: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; STYLING: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; FURNITURE: PETER MOHR; TEXTILES: DUTCH CRAFTERS; WALL: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



**WALLHANGING**  
Though electric lighting became more common by century's end, many homes, such as the landmark Chicago residence shown here, maintained their gas lamps. Set the same effect with reproduction wired fixtures. This one is carved brass and brass finish make it perfect for a period setting. \$250; [rejuvenation.com](http://rejuvenation.com)



**WALLHANGING**  
With the invention of Lincolnton in 1870, the look of simple plaster work became easy to get. Today the finest oil-based wallcovering still provides pattern by the yard. Stained paint in any color. 33 feet or the 30-inch by 22-inch panels. \$600; [jeffrey.com](http://jeffrey.com)



**TIE-ON A TIESEL**  
Late 17th-century decorative carved wooden tie-on tassels were popular in many historical styles. Tassels tapped into their popular millions of medieval grandeur. These look perfect, appropriate, draped from a suitable fireplace or lamp. \$25 each; [petermohr.com](http://petermohr.com)



**PORCELAIN ACCENTS**  
Small collections were big, especially expensive imported items like these. They might place verily up at the bathroom in any room. Double ball and plate. \$8; [meyerchina.com](http://meyerchina.com)

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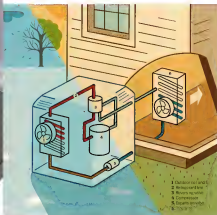
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## HOW IT WORKS



### WHAT IT IS

A **Heating Heat** is the warmest outside heat that is used to heat the inside. It's the most efficient way to heat your home.

### IS IT FOR YOU?

For homeowners who want to reduce their energy bills, a heat pump can save 30 to 40 percent off energy bills. Depending on the climate, a heat pump's efficiency (EER) will reduce gas consumption 12 percent.

### HOW IS IT SHOULD IT BE?

Look for a heat pump that is available in 300 percent of your calculated cooling load. It is better to see the unit before cooling needs and run supplemental heat. Note: A star class is a better unit for heating that becomes inefficient in summer.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**Two-stage compressors:** Stages both temperature in moderate temperatures. **Variable speed fans:** Adjust the airflow for greater comfort and efficiency. **Reversing refrigerant valves:** Place on buildings outdoor coils. **Plug-in diagnostic systems:** Projects problems during annual checkups.

### COOL EXTRA

Delivers immediate. Allows the unit to find performance repairs directly to your HVAC pro. Allows the pro monitor and adjust the house temperature remotely through a computer or cellphone.

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

\$4,000 to \$20,000 depending on its size, efficiency and features. Installation and ductwork are extra.

### WHICH EFFICIENCY IS IMPORTANT?

**EER** (Energy Efficiency Ratio) is the most efficient way to produce heat in the winter. **SEER** (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) is the most efficient way to produce heat in the summer. **SEER** (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) is the most efficient way to produce heat in the summer. **SEER** (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) is the most efficient way to produce heat in the summer.

## Heat Pump

► Get super-efficient heating in the winter and air-conditioning all summer long

ALTHOUGH IT WAS FIRST PATENTED IN 1927, the heat pump didn't get the acceptance of the American public until the energy crisis of the 1970s. That's when homeowners realized they could heat and cool their houses with a single device—and do so in a highly efficient, money-saving way. Now that fuel prices are rising again, "70s-style" heat pumps are back in the spotlight. About one-third of U.S. homes currently have them, and a new generation of pumps stands ready to grow that percentage even more.

Basically, a heat pump is an air conditioner that also heats. Like a central air system, it has a big box outside with a compressor and an electrically powered fan. And indoors, there's a coil that warms or cools air throughout the house. But here's the

BY JOE HUBBARD  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
HARRY CAMPBELL



**GMC**  
SIERRA

FUEL EFFICIENCY THAT DEFIES  
THE LAWS OF PESSIMISM.



It's hard for some to accept the Sierra has so much power and payload and still gets great gas mileage. But it does. With the most fuel efficiency available in a full-size truck\* and up to 520 tow miles per tank, it was built on the one principle more powerful than pessimism. Optimism. The Sierra, from GMC. Engineering that happens when you never say never. **WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE.**

\*2014 Mid-Range 4x4 with manual 5.3L V8 engine (EPA 24 city/31 hwy, based on 4800 lbs GVWR). Actual mileage may vary. Excludes other GM vehicles. 4800 lbs GVWR. Sierra 4x4. All rights reserved. 4800 lbs GVWR. 4800 lbs GVWR. 4800 lbs GVWR. 4800 lbs GVWR. 4800 lbs GVWR. 4800 lbs GVWR.

TOOLBOX



**THREE-LEVEL DESIGN**

For hands-free lighting, the flashlight is the 2014 Topical report with reports of 100,000. It's each of 10,000 glowing heads where you need light or just any of them. It's an individual flashlight. 20 years each, 600,000 each, 600,000 each, 600,000 each.

Large payload  
not unlike  
to form a light



## Bright Spots

Long-lasting LEDs are the smart choice for your new flashlight

BY DAN VADURA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES WATERS

ANYONE WHO WOULD FLASHLIGHTS ends up in the mercy of the darkness, fumbling, stumbling, or just losing out. But don't help on the way—here the latest high-tech torches out there with LEDs (light-emitting diodes).

LEDs and flashlights are a brilliant match. The tiny semiconductor work with a fraction of the power an incandescent requires, so batteries can be smaller and still produce light for up to 20 hours. As space and capacity have improved, the user also finds new regularly pump out about five times the light an old-style flashlight bulb could produce. And because they have no delicate filaments to break, LEDs are virtually indestructible; you could operate one for nearly as long as you stop—before it blinks out. But here's the downside: When a diode fails, it can't be replaced—you'll need to buy a new flashlight.

To give you a sense of your handheld lighting choices, take a look at the best and the brightest shown on these pages.


Three levels  
put up to 50  
degrees

Shells attach  
to handle  
over individual  
LEDs









The best part about cooking with propane?  
Living with propane.

You already know the benefits of cooking with propane—instant heat and precise temperature control. But did you know that once you've upgraded to propane in your kitchen, you've laid the groundwork to expand it throughout your home? From tankless water heaters, dryers and furnaces to fireplaces, grills and outdoor lights, propane delivers performance, comfort and efficiency inside and out. Plus, in many cases, propane gives off less than half the greenhouse gas emissions of electricity. To learn more about remodeling with clean-burning propane, visit [usepropane.com](http://usepropane.com).



**PROPANE**  
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY



2

## { step-by-step }

ity like your huts, your first step should be to make a test board to hold against your wall. (See "Design Guide" for right, for color gradient.)

Color washing works best when all the colors show through—the base and the brushed layers. To create that effect, your brushwork has to be as random as possible—bare patches and bristle marks should clearly show. The more brushed your brushes, the more successful the effect will be.

Today's paints have fewer solvents in them than they used to, however, which means they smell better but dry faster so you'll need to open up the paint's working time by thinning it out with glaze. Glaze comes with a slight sheen that has the added benefit of imparting some depth to the finish. For the base coat, what you should roll on to speed the process, use a semigloss paint for its slickness and reflective properties.

Distance between the two top brushed layers is the sign of a good color wash. Many first-time decorators panic when they see the brush marks and end up with an over-blended surface. Start out as rough as possible so you'll be able to soften things up by using a soft, dry polyester brush to feather out any harsh markings while the top layer is still wet. Then, if you're still not sure what you can do, go back over the discolored areas with more glaze until the effect is exactly the way you like it.

shopping list

### 1. LATEX PAINT

When it's time to change three colors, I have small amounts of each color in eggshells or malle. The layer colors get mixed with glaze so get about half as much of these base shades as you would need to do the whole page.

## 2. LATEX GLAZE

its length the width and create a four-sided top-seat. One gallon is enough for a 30 by 30-foot room.

### 3.1. SPACKLING

**COMPOUND**  
Up next: the walls below

painting.

4. 150-GIT  
SANDPAPER

### 5. 参考文献

Un aspect perbene al  
managementului

#### 4.1. TRUCK LINES AND

### BACKSET LINES

3. **PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

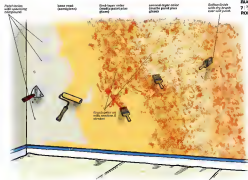


ILLUSTRATION BY  
SANDY HENRIC

## { step-by-step }

# 1

## Paint the base cost 20

Clean the walls, and cover the floors and furniture with a plastic drop cloth. Using a putty knife, fill holes with spackling compound. Sand and prime the spackled areas when dry.

Using a 1½-inch angled sash/brush, cut a line at the base color at the ceiling, corners, and around the trim. Using a roller, fill in the field and the walls are covered (RIGHT). Apply another coat only if the color you've just covered shows through.



④ Brush on the first layer

In a lined paintbrush, mix the second color of paint with the  
glaze two parts to one. Stir thoroughly.

Using a 2½-inch polyester/nylon paintbrush, brush the latex onto the wall. Begin by marking a large X in the middle of the wall (LEFT). Without refilling your brush, sweep smaller random marks across and over the X like drag and speed the paint (RIGHT). Dip the brush at the paint again as it begins to dry and continue the choppy random motion until you've covered the wall in haphazard marks. Be sure to leave a lot of the base-color showing through.

**TIP** > Steps and steps back from the wall often is a check that you're covering the space evenly. Go back and forth a few walls if necessary.



Cut in at corners and edges 30

Whenever the walls meet the trim or join the ceiling, use the straight edge of the brush to fill up to the edge. Position the bristles at a fraction of an inch from the edge, then gently click the brush toward the center of the wall in short strokes (RIGHT).

Continue along the ridge, dragging the bag and length of your sticks as you go until all the ridges are filled in. Once the wall is complete, allow the soil layer under to dry.




4

**Dry-brush the finish**  
As you apply the second layer, drag every 3 to 4 seconds and use only 6-inch polyester brush. Sweep the wet glaze off the tops of the ladders to lateralize and soften the effect (H2007). Work in long, broad strokes. Use more dry brush. Use more wet paint when in wet beds (H2120). Horizontal and vertical effects may come completely.

**Stop occasionally to touch across point of the brush.** Dry it out and use it again by brushing it over smooth paper towels.

• **When you apply the second layer, stop every 3 to 4 inches and use a dry 1/2 inch polyester brush, sweeping the wet paint off the top of the blades to lateral and collect the excess (see Fig. 20-17). Work in long, lateral strokes. Remove your dry brush. Remove the paint from the rollers (see Fig. 20-18). Because not all blades shed paint, using completely dry rollers may completely**



In a paint bucket fitted with a brush line, mix the second layer color with glaze in the same 2 to 1 proportion you used for the 1st. Stir well.

In a paint bucket fitted with a hand lance, mix the second layer color with glaze in the same 2 to 1 proportion you used for the first layer color.

Using a brush 2½" wide paintbrush, brush the second color onto the wall. Apply the paint with the same motion strokes and cutting-in technique you used with the first color. (EFTT)

Learn how to master other storylines past, byproducts of the mainline.

Learn how to master other storylines past, byproducts of the mainline.

The colors you choose, the order in which you layer them, or the way you use your brush can drastically change the look of your walls. Here's a primer on how the various combinations of hues and brush marks can create different color-washing effects.



Work from dark to light  
consider brightness and  
depth is sustained free



Choose a base color from a company's paint shop, then use the color two shades lighter and three or shade darker for the glass layer to create a soft, sophisticated look.

Layer a deeper color over a light one to mimic the way older finishes get dirtier and darker with age.



Using the brush vertically and horizontally to effect a soft, feathery glow.



Drag your brush straight down the wall in a single glaze stroke to create a vertical texture that adds a feeling of height to a wall.



Color washing is a modern technique, born in the late 20th century to mimic the look of early American folk art. Back in the 1800s, if you got tired of your yellowing plaster walls, you'd ask the village plasterer to slip on a fresh coating. The cheapest and most durable whitewash was limewash, a pale slurry made from lime, the main ingredient in traditional plaster. It adhered well to the walls and still allowed them to breathe, but it was thin and left visible brush marks when applied. Plus, the pigments were spotty and faded unevenly. So these days, when we paint in washed colors and lime, visible brush marks, we're only trying to recreate the look of a now-lost, yet still vibrant, American folk art.

These homeowners searched and searched for the ideal wreck to renovate. Here's how they transformed a stuck-in-time 1950s Cape Cod into a comfortable home for today

# Before & After



Jennifer and Jeff Kuryluk, with their daughter Mia, 1, and son, Kieran, 4, in the dining area, which was opened up to the kitchen and bright, clean-painted white to create a more spacious look.

By Kelly Beamon Photographs by David Prince  
Produced by Coleen Seaton Styling by Matthew Matello

ANYONE WHO HAS SHOPPED for an older home knows that doing the math is tricky. There appears to be affordable but also potential money pits for even die-hard DIYers. And renovated houses can be expensive and too often come with improvements you would rather live without.

Jeff and Jennifer Kuryluk, who were eager to move from graying fairly close to a two-bedroom house in Fairfield, Connecticut, to one with four bedrooms and a little character, did the math over and over. Eventually they realized they would be better off buying an older floor upper in a great neighborhood in the town they loved and enduring a gut renovation.

Opportunity would smile. With their son, Aidan, then 3 years old, and daughter, Mia, on the way, the Kurylucks knew they weren't taking the easy path. "I was scared we wouldn't find a house before we sold our old one, especially with a baby coming," Jennifer says. "Plus, as in, and you want to color anything."

But in early Fairfield, "We were seeing houses priced over \$300,000 where you'd still get a 50-year-old kitchen and a bad water heater," Jeff



**BEFORE:** The dreary kitchen was filled with clutter and clutter. **AFTER:** Simple white cabinetry helps make the new open plan kitchen bright and airy. Corvina counters and a glass-fronted refrigerator update the space with style.





## How They Saved

**Owner:** Jeff Kargish, who stayed on budget by being vigilant shopping for supplies, meeting his own deadline—and building his 20-percent margin. Sweet, sweet, sweet! **Challenge:** getting plans preapproved by the Cape Cod historic box, still the evil. Here are some of the ways the couple saved.

**Jeff served as his own GC.** This, of course, meant juggling subcontractors, bids and schedules, ordering and inventorying construction materials, visiting the site at least once a day and passing on top of costs by constantly updating a 30-day spreadsheet. But it also meant he neglected any independent look for savings at each stage—and forgot a contractor's 20-to-30 percent markup on goods and services. **Estimated savings:** \$100,000

**Did a lot of do-it-yourself work.** "I took out another guy eight Saturdays to help out at the plumbing, masonry, etc., all at the plaster walls, which were under a layer of drywall," Jeff says. "But it was worth it." **Estimated savings:** \$2,000

**Hired a decorator instead of an architect** to draw up the plans for the building. A decorator is a good fit for the second story. A big 14-foot-long wall, he got him looking for the right materials for the walls. **Estimated savings:** \$10,500

**Chose to have vinyl siding with a shingle pattern installed instead of painted cedar shingles.** **Estimated savings:** \$20,000 up front, plus at least \$5,000 a year in upkeep (based on repainting every five years).

**Went with four-pane windows** made from old concrete for the exterior walls of the new mudroom entry and on the front wall of the garage. It cost \$5 a square foot less than Pella's and more. **Estimated savings:** \$750

**Put in an unexcused backstop.** The Cape Cod historic box is a 15-inch deep glass over wallpaper. Instead of concrete, the box had no sign. **Estimated savings:** \$400

**Bought safe appliances and stored them.** The couple didn't get a standard 26-inch wide GE appliances and other pro style models. They bought freestanding models in the store and on sale. **Estimated savings:** \$8,000



**BEFORE:** The painted plywood for the garage was a huge mess.

**AFTER:** Custom storage built in and a beautiful floor turned into a much-needed mudroom.



**BEFORE:** The first living room was cluttered during a weekend renovation.

**AFTER:** Now open to the kitchen, the room is warm and bright thanks to glass-fronted walls, new windows, and French doors.



no weekends off. "He was there so much I used to pack up the kids, dinner, and a blanket in the car to take him a picnic just so we could eat together," Jennifer says. "Alec started asking for pieces with Dad. We practically lived in the car."

Of course, there were the inevitable unexpected dramas, like The Day They Decided to Move the Staircase. Jeff wanted a just three feet left of where it was—directly facing the front door—so that he could create a more graceful entry. He thought the taking down the old staircase and building new ones would be "the easy part," but that was before he studied the code and logistics. "Building stairs is an art," he says. "If they're not spaced correctly, they just aren't going to feel right." So he dug into his contemporary fond and hired a sub to build on all new staircase with oak treads and oak railings.

Despite a few fits and starts, in just eight months the cramped Cape Cod became the family's dream house, with new space, a welcoming front porch, a pristine kitchen open to the dining and family rooms, and enough bedrooms for the family, and even one for guests, all within the house's original footprint.

"You can't bear the nostalgia of the perfect house in the neighborhood you were," Jennifer says. "That's the house we usually thought we couldn't afford."

Jeff's hands-on skills aside, the couple says that their most effective money-saving tool was careful planning, which anyone can do. "It was because he organized the work on paper early on that we succeeded that," says Jennifer. "It sounds crazy, but seeing it all written out and being able to check off items on a list is what made it feasible." ■



**BEFORE:** The new upstairs bath was built. **AFTER:** During the next month, it had a new design for a larger 2 by 6-foot window that brings more light into the bath.



**BEFORE:** A bulky, heavy pine-paneled bedroom was crowded with its upstairs.

**AFTER:** Two bedrooms, including this guest room, plus two bedrooms in the full bright extended second story.



# One-Room Redos

Six smart makeovers reveal the pains and payoffs of renovating a single space  
By Keith Pandolfi



## Kicked-up Kitchen

**The setup:** Architect Murray Ochoyegrosso lived cooking for his extended family in his Coonahua house but craved more space to prepare his pasta. Plus, walls as dropped ceiling, fake-wood cabinets, linoleum floor, and bare-bones sink, the Lake Worth, Florida, kitchen (BART) was in dire straits.  
**What he did:** To build in more brooding space, Murray expanded the room from 184 to 194 square feet by removing the back wall, which was shared with a hallway, and moving the fridge wall to borrow some of the space used for a mechanical closet. This created room for a granite-topped peninsula and 40-inch dual-burner range. Removing the dropped ceiling raised the room's height to 8 feet. He went removed light fixtures and an engineered-wood floor. Cherry cabinets and an anti-rust ceramic tile backsplash gave the kitchen needed warmth and color. Having the door to the kitchen hall built in the new space was a small price to pay for the kitchen's expanded feel and function.  
**Toughest part:** Repainting the supporting wall, where the range now sits, while preserving enough space as the mechanical closet.

**Favorite finishing touch:** Open shelves at the end of the peninsula add a nice vintage detail.  
**Timeline:** Six months  
**Final budget:** \$33,000



PHOTO: JAMES WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Vintage-Look Master Bath

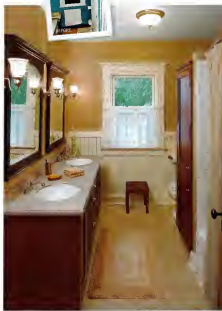
**The setup:** When Barb and Andy Buser bought their 1965 Colonial Revival house, it had a 7-by-10-foot master bath with dark blue tile and pink floral wallpaper (sorry), plus some other less-than-desirable remnants of previous remodeling. For one, the light switch was improperly grounded and almost melted the rub. The owners of the Seneca Falls, New York, home wanted to upgrade the space and give the room a more period-appropriate look without changing plumbing lines.

**What they did:** Andy, with a hand from his father, gutted the bath except for the tub. They replaced a floor with a full-oak subfloor, installed radiant floor heating with hexagonal ceramic tile over it, added wainscoting made from salvaged headboard they had found at a local antique store, and had subway tile above the tub. The extra-etched accents over the solid-oak double vanity inside the original alcove in the bedroom.

**Toughest part:** Making decisions. The Busers spent nine months poring over internet and in-store options and located over the placement of fixtures. "I kept moving the scenes to make sure they wouldn't cross shadows," Barb confesses.

**Favorite finishing touch:** A extra-etched towel warmer by Mysen took the place of a cast-iron radiator. It was pricey—\$2,000—but put the vintage touch they needed after months of showering in the basement.

**Timeline:** 18 months  
**Final budget:** \$13,800



## Basement Theater

**The setup:** When Carly and Bob Corone decided to expand their 1912 Wilmette, Illinois, home with an addition to accommodate visits from their four grown kids, their design team saw potential in the damp basement (1907). By building it out and finishing it, they could gain space for a multipurpose room big enough for family get-togethers.

**What they did:** Corone-Petrell Designers & Builders dug a foundation and basement for the addition, then took down part of the wall between the old and new below-grade spaces. The new basement level added 913 square feet of living area and solved the moisture problem with perimeter drains and sump pumps. The space boasts a projection screen TV and pool table under a 9-foot ceiling. "When those Chicago Bears are on—holly cow—the whole family's here," Carly says.

**Toughest part:** Storing up the house after removing most of the basement's back wall.

**Favorite finishing touch:** The home theater's hidden seating.

**Timeline:** The whole-house renovation took 18 months.

**Final budget:** About \$150,000, including finishing the existing lower level and adding a basement.



24

## Upgraded Staircase

**The setup:** Adults-soned Kara O'Brien renovates houses for a living, so when it came time to renovate the sagging staircase in her own 1911 Arts and Crafts home, she knew just what to do: strip off the brown paint (over) and refinish the heart pine underneath. What wasn't as clear was how to color the problems of no railing and loss of fingerprints. "My 5-year-old and her friends loved to put their hands all over the walls."

**What she did:** First, Kara refinished a custom staircase from underneath and added support beneath the landing. Then inspection one day she was removing vintage French mother-pine roof sheathing from another old house. Rather than toss it, she planned, stained, and sheathed it to use as wainscoting and a handrail.

**Toughest part:** Carving the planks for the wainscoting at the corner angle, while they were already in place. Kara snapped a chalk line down the boards, then cut their ends in circular saw.

**Favorite finishing touch:** The dark wainscoting that runs up the stairs, with three different colored glass shades.

**Timeline:** Three weeks.

**Final budget:** About \$700. "The wood and my labor were free," Kara says. "But I paid a guy to refinish the stools."



PHOTOS: JEFFREY W. WILSON/STUDIO WILSON

## Light-Filled Laundry Room

**The setup:** Along with a circa 1945 master bath (see p. 75), the Kars family's house came with a laundry area inconveniently located on an enclosed back porch. So they wanted to move the washer and dryer, and a 6-foot passageway (1907) linking the garage to the kitchen offered just the place.

**What they did:** Borrowing a bit of space from the adjacent porch provided a 130-square-foot L-shaped room big enough for a washer and dryer at one end and a sink, a landing for wet boots and dog supplies at the other. They built a new exterior wall and finished a basement floor and new windows to match others in the house. A cabinet made by Barb and her dad holds laundry supplies.

**Toughest part:** "Envisioning what it would look like when it was done," says Barb. "We had to do a dry-fit-see. That took time."

**Favorite finishing touch:** Barb found the exterior door with some of the same beadboard they used for wainscoting in the master bath.

**Timeline:** Two years. "We do not work fast," says Barb.

**Final budget:** \$3,000, plus plenty of sweat equity.



27

## Lofty Attic Office

**The setup:** When the lease on Beth Krasula's office expired last year, she ran her own branding agency to Orlando, Florida, she came up to the attic (1907) in her Queen Anne house. At 700 square feet, it could be a serene private office, she figured, but "I wanted a nook, a desk, a table, with lots of light," says Beth. Her husband, John, who was already planning to replace the roof and siding, took up the challenge.

**What he did:** John gutted the apartment, cut holes for three new windows, stripped the plaster off the walls, and finished the exposed brick with a dark stain and polyurethane. He refinished the heart pine floors and gave the exposed rafters the coat of white paint. Then, to complete the look, John hung an AC duct nearly the length of the attic, track lighting—and a vintage wooden airplane propeller.

**Toughest part:** Keeping the floors dry when the roof was open—in May, Florida's rainy season. "We were always running upstairs when it rained to make sure they were okay," says Beth. "We used big tarps, but they failed on a lot."

**Favorite finishing touch:** John made seven slide-out keyboard trays with beadboard that he salvaged while working on the house's porch.

**Timeline:** Eight months.

**Final budget:** \$33,000, including seven wood workbenches.



30

PHOTOS: JEFFREY W. WILSON/STUDIO WILSON



# 3 Small Spaces

## 9 Bold Color Ideas

» The quickest way to transform your littlest rooms? Take a high-impact approach with paint.

### Here's how to get started:

Choosing a color scheme for a small room is a perfect opportunity to be fearless. Use deep, vibrant paints requiring an equally large investment—in terms of dollars and the labor required to solidify your ruling for, say, ivory foyer or hallway entrance. So go ahead. Pick a color that you really like, and go for it.

Just step back and consider what feeling and effect you want to create. If your goal is to make the room appear larger, go with lighter shades. But if you want to accentuate its coziness, opt for rich, saturated hues. Then think about the room's function. Sunny colors after work will in the breakfast nook where you enjoy your morning coffee, while calming shades in a bedroom can encourage you to doze stress in the tub after a demanding day.

But instead making these decisions is too much, simply pick one of the *The Color House*-approved color combinations shown on these and the following pages. Thanks to some Photoshop wizardry, you face how three small rooms get completely new looks using three different—yet striking—paint schemes.



### Entry Foyer

Lively bursts of color in a front hall create a welcoming atmosphere. "It's a pass-through space where people don't linger for long, so take some liberties and be playful," says Ann McGuire, founder of Bedtime Studios, a color consulting firm in Black Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.



#### Add a single accent

A fire engine red provides an unexpected pop of color against beige walls. The ceiling, trim, and chair rails are painted a lighter shade that also works to subtly emphasize the room's lines.

Ralph Lauren Paint: [ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com)



Mix warm and cool hues. Paints from the warm side of the color spectrum, such as the earthy clay wall, set the stage and the overall feel. The cooler and more blue-green and colorless hues show up in the walls and trim. Visit [colorhouse.com](http://colorhouse.com) for more info.



Update and charge. Many colors popular today are new twists on old favorites. Says McGuire, here, a deep purple entry door adds a touch of territory when paired with gray walls. A light silver gray on the ceiling and chair rail adds a touch of territory when paired with gray walls. Visit [colorhouse.com](http://colorhouse.com) for more info.

## Breakfast Nook

Like a dose of caffeine, cheery colors in a kitchen anchor you going in the morning, says McGuire. And by painting architectural details, such as this kitchen's built-in bench, you can play with contrasts between dark and light hues.

Light  
Bench



Let the sun shine in. Yellow gives us energy and a fresh, clean look. Next to its more grubby counterpart, the cream paint on the seating area makes the details of the built-in bench. [shop.pinterest.com](http://shop.pinterest.com)



Roll up with red. A traditional choice in a formal dining room, the vibrant wall, shown with a quiet hue on the bench and warmth to warm a neutral setting area. Deep colors work well where there's little natural light because they don't make the room feel too dark. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)



Provide an anchor. Using a classic brown on the bench has a grounding effect on the lively green walls, making them less bold. The dark color also emphasizes the corner of the built-in. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM



Choose color complements. Daring color complements can be found across the room, either on the color wheel. Pairing this pale orange together with the dark blue opposite makes both colors look cleaner and brighter. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)



Stick to the strip. A sure-fire recipe for a winning combo is to pick shades from the same color strip. Here, the top and bottom have no competition with the light color on the walls and a vibrant orange green on the island. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)

## Bathroom

Pale blues and greens in a bath are common picks because they are soothing, says Chicago-based interior designer Kara Mann. But that doesn't mean you should be afraid of using an unexpected color, she says. "In a small space, it packs a lot of punch."

Light  
Bath



Emphasize good bones. The curved lines of the tub, white and ivory, like the lines of the wooden paneling, one of the bathroom's architectural features. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)

Your Best Color  
Let your color  
be the star of the show.  
It's all about the  
color.

# OLD HOUSE, SMART HOUSE

*Before getting comfy meant adjusting the thermostat, homes were designed to catch a breeze or, in colder climes, to block one. See how traditional building elements can make your home more efficient today*

BY LISA SELIN DAVID ■ ILLUSTRATIONS BY IAN BIRNBAUM

SOME OF THE MOST RESOURCE-CONSERVING HOUSES are the oldest houses, and not because they've been retrofitted with the latest technologies. Long before the advent of central heat and air conditioning, homes were constructed in concert with the climate and environment, not in spite of them. "Otherwise, people would freeze to death in the winter and die of heatstroke in the summer," says architect Steve Mortimer, who relies on such old-fashioned concepts when designing new homes that are built up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

For one thing, houses were smaller—they have more than doubled in size since the 1930s—requiring fewer materials to construct them and less energy to keep them heated. Plus, they were created with what was at hand: local wood, stone, earth. Materials weren't shipped halfway around the world, as they are today. Fields were not just dairies from a field.

In addition to the fuel saved in transport, building with native materials also improved a home's energy efficiency. Adobe bricks made in the arid Southwest, for instance, made for thick walls that regulated indoor temperatures. And wood's ability to absorb and evaporate moisture allowed Douglas fir roof shingles in the damp Pacific Northwest to expand and contract in sync with the changing weather.

Factors like natural adobe and features, and homes were even more sustainable. Those sweeping terraces and piazzas in the Southeast brought natural breezes, such as seabreezes and breezings, outside where homes provided natural air conditioning. The steeply sloped roofs of colonial-era houses in the Northeast dragged off snow and defoliated winds, while central hearths radiated heat out to surrounding rooms.

Of course, the choices that our old forefathers made today aren't given, says Mortimer. As an architectural designer and co-author of *Get Your House Right*, a recent book about traditional houses and building practices. "We used materials that were around us last winter so that the houses would last forever too," says Casati.

Have said on the following pages, we take a look at some of the defining details that many old houses share, as well as suggest applications that have stood the test of time. >>

## THE DETAILS

**Shutters** and **blinds** are used to regulate light and heat. Shutters are typically used in older homes, while blinds are more common in modern homes. Shutters are made of wood or metal and can be painted to match the house. Blinds are made of wood or plastic and can be painted to match the house.

## CHIMNEYS

Chimneys are used to vent smoke and other pollutants from the house. They are typically made of brick or stone and can be painted to match the house. Chimneys are an important part of a house's ventilation system and can help to improve indoor air quality.

## PORCHES

Porches are used to provide a covered outdoor space. They are typically made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. Porches are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## SITE

The way a house is built can have a big impact on its energy efficiency. For example, a house built on a hillside will have a steeper roof and more insulation. A house built in a cold climate will have more insulation and a larger chimney. A house built in a hot climate will have more ventilation and a larger porch.

## CHIMNEY

In older climates, brick or stone chimneys typically have interior walls made of brick or stone. In colder areas, they are often made of brick or stone and have a metal liner. In warmer areas, they are often made of brick or stone and have a metal liner. Chimneys are an important part of a house's ventilation system and can help to improve indoor air quality.

## DORMERS

Dormers are used to provide a covered outdoor space. They are typically made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. Dormers are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## ROOF

A pitched roof often extends over a home's exterior walls. The roof is made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. The roof is an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## WINDOWS

Old double-hung windows are made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. They are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## TRANSOMS

A transom window is a small window located above a door or window. It is typically made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. Transoms are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## SIDING

Shingles are used to provide a covered outdoor space. They are typically made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. Shingles are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.

## SHUTTERS

Shutters are used to provide a covered outdoor space. They are typically made of wood or stone and can be painted to match the house. Shutters are an important part of a house's exterior design and can help to improve curb appeal.



### ***northeast*** **DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL**

Based on originals built in the 1700s by European settlers primarily in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, the 20th-century Dutch Colonial Revival is a style of suburban East Coast neighborhoods today. The distinctive wood-shingled gambrel roof—typically associated with barn construction—maximizes second-story living space, especially when punctuated with windows or dormers, which also flood the interior with daylight. On some Dutch Colonial Revival examples, the roof is flared over a porch supported by posts to shade the facade and protect it from rain and snow. Shutters flank tall double-hung windows and can be closed during a storm. Thick exterior walls made of either portland field stone or timber framing, and sheathed with overlapping wood shingles help shield interiors against cold winds.



See photos galleries, online house tours, plus the bonus that shows how to design your own house.



### ***west coast*** **ROW HOUSE**

San Francisco's Victorian-era row houses are models of efficiency. With more than a dozen crammed onto a single block, they take up little of the landscape while maximizing living space by rising vertically. Row houses shared walls with reduced both the amount of building materials needed and the space where heated air could escape out only the front and back walls are exposed to the elements. Firewood and shutters were stored in the elements. Firewood and shutters were stored in the elements. Firewood and shutters were stored in the elements. Firewood and shutters were stored in the elements. Firewood and shutters were stored in the elements.

## **REGIONAL HOUSE STYLES**

Far more than fetching facades, some of our nation's most enduring house styles took root in particular areas due to the local weather, landscape, and materials at hand. See which architectural elements your house shares.

### ***midwest*** **BUNGALOW**

Affection for small bungalow houses in English (hence the name)—both Craftsman and Prairie style bungalows caught on in middle America in the early 20th century. Their cover hanging eaves provide shade and protect windows from rain, and their low ceilings shade and protect windows from rain. Their cover hanging eaves provide shade and protect windows from rain. Their cover hanging eaves provide shade and protect windows from rain. Their cover hanging eaves provide shade and protect windows from rain.



### ***southeast*** **RAISED PLANTATION COTTAGE**

Designed for the heat and humidity of the deep South, raised plantation cottages date to the early 18th century, when French colonists, settled in the Mississippi River Valley. Elevated on sturdy pier foundations, the style is ideally suited to staying dry in a landscape plagued by frequent flooding. The four sloped sides of a hipped roof extend far past the exterior walls, creating a wrap-around porch that is accessible via French doors from nearly every room in the house. Protected by the porch overhang, doors and floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows can be opened wide, even in rainstorms, to cool off interior rooms. But if the wind blows too fast, as it often does in this more remote area, full-height shutters can be closed and latched. Raised plantation cottages are typically clad in either cypress or cypress board-and-batten swamp wood that resists warping and rot. Walls are often painted white to reflect heat.



### ***southwest*** **ADOBES**

First used on these shores by Native Americans, adobe brick is a mixture of soil, water, and straw that is set in mud-brick frames and baked by the sun. Often adopted by Spanish colonists, the adobe home as we know it sprouted along the Southwest with flat roofs (to serve with little rain or snow), thick walls, and few windows, to keep the sun from shining in. Timbers called vigas protect interior walls, forming their framework for ceilings inside. Fireplaces in the corners of the house warm rooms on cool nights. During the heat of the day, a central courtyard and veranda as an open-air room for relaxing and socializing.

Hey,  
Dad...

## ...Are You Busy Next Weekend?

How one novice homeowner renovated  
a wreck with crumbling walls, moldy  
floors, and pigeon nests, relying on lots  
of help from her dear old dad



BT: Angela Davies, *Homeowner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Jason Varney  
STYLING BY Meredith Miller



## Reader Remodel

**UPDATES:** After around three years of renovating, owner Angela Davies and her dad's handy father-in-law transformed a circa-1870 Second Empire house with gingerbread trim into a modern gem.

**THIS PAGE:** The house boasts a new set of freshly painted exterior surfaces of its original redwood moldings and cast-iron, and a wrought-iron fence.



**"E**very time I drove by the beat-up brick house with the boarded-up windows and boarded roof I would feel even more. Someone needed to save this former beauty, with an assemble gingerbread trim and curvaceous mansard roof. Why not me?

I got my love of old houses from my parents, Ted and Pam, who used to take my two younger brothers and me on house tours when we were little. My Edie and I now live near each other in Carleah, Pennsylvania, where there's no shortage of vintage houses, and they never miss an opportunity to point one out.

Well, this one was special. Built around 1885 in the Second Empire style, it boasted no fewer than four porches (one upstairs). Along with its gingerbread, the front facade showed off a pair of cast-iron doors, its floor-to-ceiling windows, and two decorative corner pilings that broke that mansard roof.

I wasn't really looking for a new place. I already owned a house that more than met my needs—a single 25-year-old. But this one was big—3,250 square feet—and came with almost half an acre. It also came with many headaches, which my dad was quick to point out when I got here made to make a look.

He clearly hoped I would change my mind. But I could tell he was also intrigued by the possibilities. One of Dad's biggest passions is building out family's former houses, with the help of my mom's uncle, a contractor. Dad also took on the finish work on the house my parents bought. And that is the same man who, when I was 5, found I was a physicist and promised to build me, complete with a shingled roof, little glass windows, and a porch wing.

As we looked around the trash-filled rooms of the house I now wanted to save, we saw how it had been turned up into three apartments, probably in the 1970s. TLC had been in that supply. The second over the dining room fireplace was gone, and so were the original light fixtures and crown molding. The plaster on the walls was crumbling, most walls were unsalvageable, and the slate roof—or what remained of it—was falling apart. The only sign of life was a jock of pigeons that had taken up residence in the eaves.

Naturally, Dad offered to lend a hand. And with buses bused, it was no problem getting my mom involved, too.

With such reinforcements, I was sure my dad's list of all the problems in just six months, even as Dad tried to explain that once you start ripping out walls you can never be sure what you'll find. It's not that I didn't hear him. I just thought he was, in usual, underestimating himself.

By early spring 2005, the house was a little more. And, along with my own full-time accounting job, I suddenly had a second job as a contractor, plans around mortgage.

Over Dad realized that I had my heart set on a renovation, he jumped right in. From the start we made a good team. He's really meticulous, always trying to make things perfect. And when I talked to someone to do a job I made up my enthusiasm. I was basically up for doing and trying anything that would help get my house ready, no matter how dirty I got. After gutting most of the house, we moved slowly and restoring the interior and several priority rooms first. We tackled one task at a time, figuring that if we thought too hard about the big picture we'd never get started.



**ABOVE:** During demolition the homeowner uncovered a fireplace flanked by a pair of windows. After she found the right table, which has a new shingle roof, she left her father volunteered to take on the living room. (L.R. to pick it up.)



**ABOVE:** The dining room's original Empire mantel had gone missing. (Over) To make the room's appearance the owner installed a shingled mantel and other vintage details such as crown molding and a vintage chandelier.



**RIGHT:** The house had been stripped of most of its existing details. And its side entry to the porch was boarded up. (Over) After setting out restoring the porch, entry doors and heart-pine floors inside replaced the natural wood. The work was completed with a local company which does the look replaced a missing knob and polished it over more.

#### ONLINE DIY

Learn how to install a mantel over your fireplace at [www.houzz.com](http://www.houzz.com) [diy.houzz.com](http://diy.houzz.com)



## What I Did

**Revised home:** 3,500-Square-Foot House  
**House:** 1970s ranch-style house  
**Remodeling cost:** About \$45,000

**Time frame:** 3 years and counting  
**Where I saved:** Choosing natural rock sheetrock instead of drywall, using rock rubber tiles and securing the entrance porch of the house (which my mother-in-law insisted on).

**Where I splurged:** Granite, leather counters and 50 x 50 square foot hexagonal black and white tiles for the master bath.

**What I would do differently:** I never gave plans to the contractor before he started work. I thought I could change things as I went along.

**Biggest challenge:** Getting rid of 300 years worth of paint. Between the color and the interior paint, the paint was so thick I thought the house would fall apart.

**How I solved it:** I took my mother-in-law to look at the house and she said I had to be done. So, I got my mother-in-law to give me the money to get the house done.



**Floor plan:** The house was a ranch-style house with a large living room and a large kitchen. The house was a ranch-style house with a large living room and a large kitchen.

## "It can be overwhelming. You have to just pick a room, make a plan, and focus."

—ED DAVIS, THE HOMEOWNER'S EXPERT

Mom came by regularly, taking on each daunting task as stripping the five thick layers of paint from the master bedroom. And anyone Dad lost his tools—a surprisingly regular occurrence for someone so into details—it was usually Mom who ended them down.

Soon 6 months stretched to 12. And by the time we moved in for a second year of hard labor, none of us could remember what we used to do with our free time. I ended up coming back to work my parents so that I could control our savings. We were living, breathing, and talking about the renovation, even over dinner. Now I'm really interested in the job done.

When you spend your weekends and holidays uncovering surprises in old plaster walls, raising, not work hours, and releasing random pigeons, it's bonding. I had never felt closer to my dad, even when we got stressed out and in each other's way as we tried to make plans.

More than once we hove up our heads and saw we'd walk a way from the madness—or least for a few days. In the end, we just went to work in separate rooms and cooled off, knowing that if we stopped it would be easy to return to the grinding routine. "To ease

**BELOW:** Homeowner Angela Smith relaxes on the refreshed side porch. The detail over the door was crafted by her dad to blend with the house's original front door. The exterior paint colors are blue, the porch door is green and silver, and the porch door is green.



**ABOVE:** An existing bath had 1970s multicolored tile and a semi-circular sink (over). To give it a contemporary look, the homeowner installed a new sink and a new mirror.

**RIGHT:** The kitchen had wooden cabinets and a built-in electric range (over). The renovated space was given an update with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and stainless steel appliances.

"the tension we blamed the radio and sang our loud."

Fortunately, whenever I wanted to rush through a project to get it done, Dad kept me to his attention to detail. If every window was leaking and every door was shut, he put me to work and I'd be there, right down to the exterior corner's original window pane.

After we uncovered a second fireplace behind a wall in the porch, I found a Victorian-era colonial mantel on eBay to top it. Dad offered to drive to Washington, D.C., to pick it up, then presented his own dad to come along and help carry it down three flights to the car. Once the mantel was up, Dad added up-and-down covers and a rug over an emergency to match the columns.

But his greatest moment probably came when he decided to give me my new back door his own stamp. Laboring late at night, he crafted a classic surface to go over the door. I'd come every time I walk by and never bore a hint as with the grandfathered man.

At the work ground, my budget grew to \$45,000. That included upgrading to a new kitchen with granite counters, cherry cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. I figured I'd only be doing this once.

Or so I've promised my eyes, which has happened to include not only Grandma but also my brother Markie, who found himself enjoying my old 100-hour spring by installing my new back door. I've persuaded my younger brother, Nathan, to help me with the kitchen backdoor.

I moved in a little over two years ago, and it does feel like home—although there are a few things left to do. For one, even after all this time, the master bath needs new tilework. Maybe Dad will have some free time over the holidays. I'll make sure to ask him. ■

## Render Remodel



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# WORKSHOP

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- 100 Norm's Notebook
- 105 Battery check-up
- 120 Resource Directory



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2014



**RESEARCH DESIGN**



**Abstract** The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of a 12-week, low-intensity, supervised walking program on the physical and psychological health of sedentary, middle-aged women. The study was a randomized, controlled trial. The subjects were 40 sedentary, middle-aged women who were randomly assigned to either a supervised walking program or a control group. The walking program consisted of 12 weeks of supervised walking, 3 times per week, for 30 minutes per session. The control group consisted of 20 women who did not participate in the walking program. The subjects were assessed at baseline and at 12 weeks for physical and psychological health. The physical health assessment included measurements of weight, body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, and blood pressure. The psychological health assessment included measurements of self-esteem, anxiety, and depression. The results of the study showed that the walking program had a significant positive effect on the physical and psychological health of the subjects. The walking program resulted in a significant decrease in weight, BMI, waist circumference, and blood pressure. The walking program also resulted in a significant increase in self-esteem and a significant decrease in anxiety and depression. The results of this study suggest that a 12-week, low-intensity, supervised walking program can improve the physical and psychological health of sedentary, middle-aged women.



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Q

### USING RECYCLED WOOD

We own a barn that is at least 75 years old and in good shape. If we tear it down, can we reuse the beams in new construction?

854 MARCELLO-SONAR, LEE, AND KIMURA

**Non-Ashes explore** Any wood can be reused, as long as it's solid, free of rot or insects, and the right size. There takes a number of steps to get there. For instance, old wood usually has to be treated to kill insects and carefully scanned with a metal detector to find embedded fasteners. Once the fasteners have been removed, an arduous process of huff, the wood can be used as it is or milled into other uses. Before any milling, however, the wood has to be wet-treated to remove any grail, which would quickly dull planer knives and saw blades.

Disassembling the frame of your barn shouldn't be too difficult, but if you intend to use the old posts and beams as structural elements, have them checked out by a structural engineer first. There's always a chance that rot, water, or insects have made the wood unsuitable.

Here's another angle to consider: If a barn has any historic significance, it might be worth keeping. Wisconsin has a barn-preservation program ([www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)), which lists architects, contractors, and consultants who can advise you on your options.

All in all, if construction isn't in the cards, I think that setting the wood—whether for framing, flooring, or siding—is better than letting those structures rot into the ground.



TNT member corporation North America recently has scored joint bids for two franchises (Chicago and Kansas). Further subings are forthcoming and are expected to include Ohio and Missouri. The project now stands at \$200.

### Sealing a Cracked Tree

**Q** We have an old oak tree that has a crack in the bark near its base. Birds have lived in it, as have chipmunks, and one bird is nesting there. Once the birds



## ASK THE EXPERTS

### Is your furnace ready for the long, cold winter?

Winter isn't fun, especially if your furnace isn't running at peak efficiency. Here are some simple steps to get it ready for winter.

Clean or replace the filter to avoid restricting the flow of heated air, which causes your furnace to run longer and potentially overheat the unit.

Have a Carrier dealer inspect your furnace to perform functions like checking all gas connections. Bad gas connections are a fire hazard and can contribute to health problems.

Keep vents unobstructed. Your furnace works best when air in your home can circulate easily through the vents.

Remove all flammable objects from around your furnace and water heater.

If you need more information on how to get your furnace ready for winter, visit carrier.com or call 1-800-CARRIER and talk to an expert.

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## WORKSHOP Ask This Old House

Is there something we can fill the hole with so that the tree doesn't rot?

DAVID GILMAN, FISHKILL, N.Y.

**Boys Cook** *asker:* Before you do any work in this tree, have a certified arborist inspect it to see if it is structurally sound. It might be that it would be better—and safer—to remove the tree rather than patch the hole.

If the tree is in sturdy condition, you can keep the crown out by covering the hole with hardware cloth—in an 8-inch galvanized screen. When I'm concerned about moisture getting in, sometimes I'll add some mesh over the hole and spray the mesh to help it blend in.

Whatever you do, don't fill the hole with concrete. It cracks and breaks off, it builds moisture—which encourages rot—and it does a number on chain-saw blades when the saw comes to take the tree down.

### Where to Use CFLs

The enclosed ceiling fixtures in my house are marked "maximum 60-watt bulb." Can a 35-watt compact fluorescent light bulb give the same light as a 35-watt incandescent bulb, be used safely in this location?

JOHN FRENSE, GAINESVILLE, FLA.

**Kevin O'Connor** *asker:* According to General Electric, CFL Product Manager for GE Lighting, as long as the bulb's actual wattage use is lower than 60, you're okay. A 35-watt fluorescent burns cooler than a 60-watt incandescent bulb, so there's no danger to your fixture as you boost it up one size.

However, since fluorescent tubes burn out more often than a standard, depending on which fixture it's in and how it's used. If your fixture is enclosed—mainly concealed by a glass shade or globe—and enclosed into a ceiling or wall, the heat generated by the bulbs inside the bulb's base might fry the bulb's electronics. Booser says the bulb's packaging will make clear whether a bulb will work in a recessed, enclosed fixture and will also note any other restrictions, such as whether it can be used with dimmer switches or photo sensors, or is suited to outdoor use.

### Heating With a Gas Fireplace

I'm thinking about fitting a 300 Btu/min I found an clearance to the direct vent, sealed-combustion natural gas fireplace in our large, open family room. Do you think I could heat the room that way, instead of relying on the house's two-year-old high-efficiency furnace?

LEW GILLES, EAST GREENWICH, N.Y.

**Richard Terhune** *asker:* Using the fireplace as a primary heat source is not room design's best choice, because even the most efficient gas fireplace is no match for a high-efficiency furnace. A fireplace is there primarily for aesthetics and reserve its ability to heat a room as needed, at best.

Sure, a blower will help move heated air beyond the

vicinity of the fireplace, but don't expect it to distribute that heat evenly throughout the family room. Also, adding the blower may void the warranty on the fireplace. Check with the fireplace manufacturer before installing it.

Finally, the best way to save money with a gas fireplace is to convert a standing pilot light—one that's on all the time—to an on-demand pilot that fires only when necessary. I don't know if your fireplace has a pilot light, but if it does, such a conversion could easily save \$10 or more every month.

### Butcher-Block Revival

The butcher block countertop in my kitchen is getting grimy and dull. Is there any way to refinish them to make them shine again?

CHRISTOPHER, NEW YORK CITY

**Tom Stille** *asker:* Any butcher block countertop can be refinished, but the process depends on what items it already has. You mentioned "shone," so I assume that the surface has some kind of glossy coating, such as polyurethane, lacquer, or varnish. Such finishes might be fine for furniture, but on a hardworking wood counter, especially one that's used as a cutting surface, they're likely to chip, flake, and trap water, all of which makes a counter hard to clean and maintain.

A much better finish for butcher block is natural oil, a food-safe, penetrating finish that soaks into the wood, leaving a matte surface rather than a shiny film. What's more, natural oil doesn't turn rancid, as vegetable oils will.

Before refinishing, you first have to sand off all the existing finish—all won't penetrate a glossy coating. Remove all the dust, then wipe on a thin layer of mineral oil and let it soak in for half an hour or so before wiping on another thin layer. Let that soak in, then wipe off any excess with a clean towel. That's it! Rub it more often every month or so to keep the surface clean and looking its best.

If someone uses your countertop as a cutting board and cuts the wood, smooth the surface with a cord sander, a flat piece of metal that has a slightly shaped edge.



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**Q:** Can I install engineered flooring over existing wood floors?

Answer: D

**A:** Yes, if the existing floor is flat and stable. But transitions at carpet, tile, and vinyl will be more pronounced. Squawks and creaks won't go away either. If it were me, I'd... *A Spruce Senior Advisor*

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the flow, because it's rich in Omega-3 fatty acids. These fatty acids supply energy quickly, which is ideal for your system. Check with a local heating contractor to determine how much capacity you'll need.

2. Electric radiant ceiling panels. These units, such as the Foray panel from SSR Inc., can be installed in a ceiling grid, dropped into a suspended ceiling grid, or even mounted on a wall. They're about 1 inch thick and space 2 by 8 feet apart. These panels warm objects, not air, so they're quite efficient in large, open spaces. But unlike a radiant floor heat system, the panels bring up the temperature fairly quickly, you turn them on/hell on heat or so before you plan to walk in the shop, then turn them off when you're done. They don't make any noise and aren't particularly difficult to install. If you want, just park them near the area where you spend the most time. Electric heating can be expensive if it's on all the time, but when you're not using it, it's not costing you money.

You can combine both these systems, too. A forced combustion heater would cover general heating needs, and an electric radiant panel around your workbench would keep you extra cozy. ■

## Send your questions to Ask This Old House

to: [askthisoldhouse@earthlink.net](mailto:askthisoldhouse@earthlink.net)

or on the radio: Ask This Old House  
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# NEW: In the Olive Oil Section!



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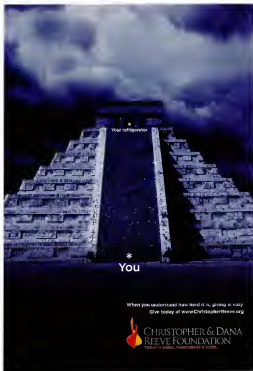
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(OK, just wanted to make sure you were paying attention.)

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**Q** Each of the three exterior doors on my house has a large panel of single-pane glass. What can I do to reduce heat loss without blocking the daylight?

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**See the light:** The amount of heat you're losing through the glass is probably not much greater than what you're also losing through the door itself. For maximum performance, it's probably best to replace the doors with new, fully insulated ones with metal or fiberglass skins. But if you like the look of your old doors or can't afford new ones, you could cover the glass on the inside with a clear plastic panel, which will help insulate by trapping air. Here's what you need to do:



Forget a glass break: Insulate sheet, run the scoring tool firmly over the sheet at least three times.

**1** Visit a home center and buy a 900-inch-thick sheet of rigid plastic that's big enough to cover the glass and is about 2 1/2 inches wider and taller. Lexan polycarbonate is a good choice because it's unbreakable. Also buy 3-inch pre-drilled screws and a steel-backed scoring tool for cutting the plastic.

**2** Lay the sheet on a flat surface and mark your cutlines. Leave an 8-inch plastic film that protects the sheet from scratches. Now place a steel rule next to each cutline and go all the way from one edge of the sheet to the other (top right). Lay the sheet so that its waste side overlaps the edge of a window or door, press down and snap the waste off at the score line. Cut the film on the other side with a utility knife.

**3** Drill holes around the perimeter of the plastic about 1/4 inch from the edge and about 8 inches apart. Use a bit slightly larger than the screw's diameter so that the plastic won't crack when you install it.

**4** Remove the film from both sides of the sheet, place it over the door's window and screw it to the door. Don't overtighten the screws—snug is good enough—or you might crack the plastic.

While you're at it, make sure the weatherstripping around the door is in good shape and doing its job. If not, more heat is probably leaking out around the door than you're losing through the glass. For example, a dense thin gap around a typical entryway door will let in as much cold air as a 3 1/2-inch hole.



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MANY A WELL-INTENTIONED GUY has come to Linneus, Missouri, over the years to witness this sturdy folk-Victorian with its two-bay porches and what a former owner refers to as "the most beautiful staircase I've ever seen." But no one's been able to finish the job. Then came John White, a retired Annapolis chef who tried to turn the dilapidated house into a haven until, sadly, health prevented him from getting much home-improving done. After White died in 1990, his nephew took over, but it wasn't long after realizing the level of commitment the house required. Most recently a real estate agent bought the place, intending to move it to a nearby backlot, but changing his mind after learning the relocation would cost 50 grand. "Other people have come along with a lot of enthusiasm, and then it just sort of fades out," says Dr. White's nephew, Jacques, who still lives nearby.

So the old 2,640-square-foot house stands empty, pulled to the studs and waiting for someone to make it into a home again. Pity since it's always been a standout structure in the tiny farming community of about 400 people.

A nearby farmer, who also owned a Cannau, first took care of the house around 1900 when it was considered one of the area's finest residences. One local Linneus resident remembered standing with the girl, first lady with her mother in the 1920s and hearing the sweet notes of baby grand piano floating down from second-floor music room.

Want to give this house a happy ending? It shouldn't be too hard, since the dirty work has already been done. The last owner updated the wiring and plumbing and replaced the foundation roof windows and floors. And aside you'll find all other-house congealed (and never painted) pine mill work and oak floors. Once the restoration is complete, you can take pride in finishing the job—just make sure you tell everyone it was a group effort.

—KATH HANCOCK

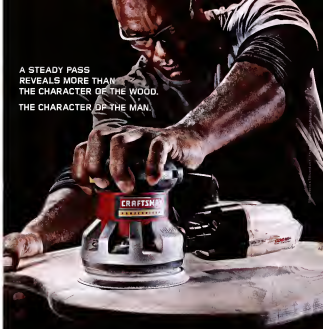


View from a window of the house showing the original wooden floor and the new wooden floor. The house is in the process of being restored. The house is in the process of being restored. The house is in the process of being restored.

Don't miss the 2008 edition of the book "The House That Built a Home" by John White, which is available for purchase at the Linneus House. The book is available for purchase at the Linneus House. The book is available for purchase at the Linneus House. The book is available for purchase at the Linneus House.

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